

Arguments/ Remarks

I. Status

Claims 108-115, 123, 131-136 are pending. Claims 112-113, 115, 125-130 have been withdrawn in light of the prior issued restriction requirement. Claims 1-107 and 116-122, 124 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 108-111, 114, 123, 131-136 are presently pending and under Examination. All claims stand free of the art.

The claims have been reviewed for accuracy, and minor amendments correcting typographical issues have been made. Support for the amendment to claim 126 ("glomerular nephritis"). can be found in original claim 74. No new matter has been introduced by any of the requested amendments.

II. The Rejection of Claims 108-111, 123 and 131-136 Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph

Claims 108-111, 123 and 131-136 have been rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph. The Examiner has advised that since the deposit of hybridoma 1F2 was made on May 7, 2004, a verified statement is required to establish that the hybridoma 1F2 described in the specification and the hybridoma 1F2 deposited with the ATCC are the same. Applicants herewith submit a Verified Statement of co-inventor Maria Concetta Veri establishing the facts of the Deposit.

In light of such submission, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 108-111, 123 and 131-136 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph may be properly withdrawn.

III. Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims

Applicants respectfully requests rejoinder of the withdrawn claims

IV. Concluding Remarks

Applicants submit that the present response is complete and complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §121. The Application is believed to be in condition for further Examination and early notice of favorable action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions regarding the subject invention or its patentability, Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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